

Chapter 434-379 WAC

INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

(Formerly chapter 434-79 WAC)

WAC

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WAC 434-379-005 Filing of an initiative or referendum—Fee—Required documents. A person desiring to file with the secretary of state a proposed initiative to the people, initiative to the legislature, or referendum measure may do so by filing the following documents:

- (1) A legible copy of the measure proposed, or the act or part of such act on which a referendum is desired;
- (2) An affidavit declaring under penalty of perjury:
 - (a) That the person submitting the proposed measure is over eighteen years of age and competent to testify;
 - (b) That the person submitting the proposed measure is a registered voter in the state of Washington;
 - (c) Whether the proposed measure is an initiative to the people, initiative to the legislature, or referendum; and
 - (d) The subject of the initiative, or the bill number of the legislation being referred; and
- (3) A filing fee of five dollars for each measure submitted.

The proposed measure is not considered filed with the secretary of state until all documents and fees are filed, including any original versions required.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611, 09-03-110, § 434-379-005, filed 1/21/09, effective 2/21/09; 06-23-094, § 434-379-005, filed 11/15/06, effective 12/16/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611 and 43.07.120, 05-12-116, § 434-379-005, filed 5/31/05, effective 7/1/05.]

WAC 434-379-007 Certificate of review. After filing the documents listed in WAC 434-379-005, a copy of the documents is sent to the code reviser. The code reviser shall issue a certificate of review certifying that he or she has reviewed the measure and that any recommendations have been communicated to the sponsor. Within fifteen working days after the date that the secretary of state submits the proposed measure to the code reviser's office, the sponsor shall file the measure and the certificate of review with the secretary of state for assignment of a serial number. The secretary of state shall refuse to make such assignment unless the measure is accompanied by a certificate of review that has substantially the same topic as the measure.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611 and 43.07.120, 05-12-116, § 434-379-007, filed 5/31/05, effective 7/1/05.]

WAC 434-379-008 Signed petitions. (1) To allow for sufficient personnel to accept and process signed petitions, the sponsor of an initiative or referendum must make an appointment with the elections division for submission of the

signed petitions to the secretary. Petitions submitted prior to or at the appointment that clearly bear insufficient signatures must be rejected pursuant to RCW 29A.72.160. If the petitions are accepted and filed, additional petitions may be submitted until the applicable deadline established by RCW 29A.72.160. When submitting the petitions, the sponsor must also provide the text of the measure, exactly as it was printed on the circulated petitions, in an electronic Microsoft Word format.

(2) Signatures on initiative and referendum petitions submitted to the secretary may not be removed from the petition or eliminated from the signature count. Letters submitted to the secretary requesting the removal of one's own signature from a petition must be retained by the secretary as part of the public record for the petition.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611, 29A.04.255, 11-05-008, § 434-379-008, filed 2/3/11, effective 3/6/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611, 06-23-094, § 434-379-008, filed 11/15/06, effective 12/16/06; 06-11-043, § 434-379-008, filed 5/10/06, effective 6/10/06.]

WAC 434-379-010 Random sampling procedure. In the verification of signatures on initiative and referendum petitions, under RCW 29A.72.230, the following statistical test may be employed:

(1) Take a minimum three percent unrestricted random sample of the signatures submitted;

(2) Check each signature sampled to determine the number of valid signatures in the sample, the number of signatures in the sample which are invalid because the individual signing is not registered or the signature is improper in form, and the number of signatures which are duplicated in the sample;

(3) Calculate an allowance for the chance error of sampling by multiplying the square root of the number of invalid signatures in the sample by 1.5;

(4) Estimate the upper limit of the number of signatures in the population which are invalid by dividing the sum of the invalid signatures in the sample and the allowance for the chance error of sampling by the sampling ratio, i.e. the number of signatures sampled divided by the number of signatures submitted;

(5) Determine the maximum allowable number of pairs of signatures in the population by subtracting the sum of the number of signatures required by Article II, Section 1A of the Washington state Constitution and the estimate of the upper limit of the number of invalid signatures in the population from the number of signatures submitted;

(6) Determine the expected number of pairs of signatures in the sample by multiplying the square of the sampling ratio by the maximum allowable number of pairs of signatures in the population;

(7) Determine the acceptable number of pairs of signatures in the sample by subtracting 1.65 times the square root of the expected number of pairs of signatures in the sample from the expected number of pairs of signatures in the sample;

(8) If the number of pairs of signatures in the sample is greater than the acceptable number of pairs of signatures in the sample, each signature shall be canvassed to determine the exact number of valid signatures;

(9) If the number of pairs of signatures in the sample is less than the acceptable number of pairs of signatures in the sample, the petition shall be deemed to contain sufficient signatures and the serial number and ballot title shall be certified to the state legislature as provided in RCW 29A.72.230 or to the county auditors as provided in RCW 29A.72.250.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611 and 43.07.120. 05-12-116, § 434-379-010, filed 5/31/05, effective 7/1/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.610. 04-15-089, § 434-379-010, filed 7/16/04, effective 8/16/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 29.04.080, 29.04.210, 29.36.150 and 29.79.200. 97-21-045, recodified as § 434-379-010, filed 10/13/97, effective 11/13/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 29.79.200 and 29.04.080. 97-17-035, § 434-79-010, filed 8/13/97, effective 9/13/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 29.79.200. 78-08-032 (Order 78-2), § 434-79-010, filed 7/17/78.]

WAC 434-379-020 Signature verification standard.

A signature on a petition sheet must be matched to the signature on file in the voter registration records. The following characteristics must be utilized to evaluate signatures to determine whether they are by the same writer:

(1) Agreement in style and general appearance, including basic construction, skill, alignment, fluency, and a general uniformity and consistency between signatures;

(2) Agreement in the proportions of individual letters, height to width, and heights of the upper to lower case letters;

(3) Irregular spacing, slants, or sizes of letters that are duplicated in both signatures;

(4) After considering the general traits, agreement of the most distinctive, unusual traits of the signatures.

A single distinctive trait is insufficient to conclude that the signatures are by the same writer. There must be a combination or cluster of shared characteristics. Likewise, there must be a cluster of differences to conclude that the signatures are by different writers.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611, 29A.04.530. 06-02-028, § 434-379-020, filed 12/28/05, effective 1/28/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611 and 43.07.120. 05-12-116, § 434-379-020, filed 5/31/05, effective 7/1/05.]